

Date of Hearing: June 29, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Robert Rivas, Chair

SB 1029 (Hurtado) – As Amended June 8, 2022

SENATE VOTE: 39-0

SUBJECT: One Health Program: zoonotic diseases

SUMMARY: This bill requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to jointly establish a framework and administer the One Health Program to reduce the spread of disease from animals to humans. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires CDPH and CDFA to jointly establish and administer an interagency framework for responding to zoonotic diseases and reducing hazards to human and animal health, as set forth by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- 2) Requires CDPH and CDFA to work with stakeholders to develop the framework for the One Health Program. Stakeholders may include, but not be limited to:
 - a. One Health Office of the CDC
 - b. Medical Board of California
 - c. Veterinary Medical Board
 - d. Agricultural programs
 - e. Institutes
 - f. Schools within the University of California or the California State University system
 - g. Community-based organizations
- 3) Requires CDPH and CDFA to establish goals, identify activities necessary to achieve those goals, and recommend legislation or other actions to advance One Health efforts.
- 4) Requires CDPH and CDFA to periodically submit joint reports to the legislature containing information described in paragraph (1), in accordance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.
- 5) Requires the Legislative Analyst's Office to evaluate the framework established and the implementation of any legislation or other actions based on that framework every three years.
- 6) Requires the bill is to be implemented upon appropriation by the Legislature.

EXISTING LAW:

Existing state law:

- 1) Establishes the Animal Health and Food Safety Services (AHFSS) within CDFA. The AHFSS assures that agricultural products are safe, available, and affordable for Californians.

Existing federal law:

- 1) Establishes the Center for Disease Control (CDC). CDC is the nation's leading science-based, data-driven, service organization that protects the public's health. Within CDC is the One Health Program whose goal is achieving optimal health outcomes, recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) One Health Office leads the agency's One Health efforts in the United States and abroad.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: According to the CDC, animals provide many benefits to people. Many people interact with animals in their daily lives, both at home and away from home. Animals provide food, fiber, livelihoods, travel, sport, companionship, and education for people across the globe. Millions of households in the United States have one or more pets. People might come into contact with animals in either urban or rural settings, during travel, while visiting animal exhibits, or while enjoying outdoor activities.

However, animals can sometimes carry harmful germs that can spread to people and cause illness – these are known as zoonotic diseases or zoonoses. Zoonotic diseases are caused by harmful germs like viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi. These germs can cause many different types of illnesses in people and animals, ranging from mild to serious illness and even death. Animals can sometimes appear healthy even when they are carrying germs that can make people sick, depending on the zoonotic disease.

Zoonotic diseases are very common, both in the United States and around the world. Scientists estimate that more than six out of every 10 known infectious diseases in people can be spread from animals, and three out of every four new or emerging infectious diseases in people come from animals.

According to the author, “The One Health approach is a collaborative effort of multiple health science professions coming together to achieve optimal health for people, domestic animals, wildlife, plants, and our environment.

Earlier this year, multiple horses in several counties in California were exposed and plagued with Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) which causes respiratory disease, abortion, neonatal death, and the neurological disease known as equine herpesvirus myelocencephalopathy (EHM) 1. Due to the ease of transmission, the California State Veterinarian, Dr. Annette Jones D.V.M, recommended that events and all non-essential horse movement be postponed in an attempt to limit the spread of the virus.

Animals at risk of contracting new and emerging diseases can shake entire industries, but can also be a danger to human health. It is crucial for California to strengthen its efforts in preventing and responding to diseases with a One Health approach to help ease the negative effects these diseases leave behind.”

Supporters state, California’s veterinary medical community is part of a critical first line of defense in detecting emerging infectious diseases that may affect the food supply or become transmissible threats to human life. The SARS-CoV-2 virus and its impact on the world’s human and animal population demonstrates how physicians and veterinarians must work together collaboratively, actively, and aggressively with a “One Health” mindset to protect against future health threats. The “One Health” approach has also been long embraced by the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, the most acclaimed veterinary medical college in the country.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals INC.
California Animal Welfare Association
California Veterinary Medical Association
Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California
San Diego Humane Society
San Diego Humane Society and SPCA

Opposition

None on file.

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